

From the Desk of the President - November 2019

Now that the goblins and ghouls have returned to their hiding places for another season, the County Council is turning toward the holiday season and the end of the calendar year. The first year for this new Council was very busy and much of the business of the Council will carry over into 2020.

The Talbot County Council has been working with the Town of Easton toward the future development of the Mistletoe Hall Commerce-Business Park. Once completed the Park will be home to several businesses, providing much needed commercial and industrial space in the Town. The Park will allow for business expansion and the attraction of new companies to the area. Several local companies have expressed a strong interest in relocating to the Park as they seek to invest and expand. The County's Roads Department has recently completed the widening and improvements of Goldsborough Neck Road to accommodate the anticipated increase of traffic delivering materials and goods to the Park.

In accordance with the County's Comprehensive Plan, a Village Master plan is required for County villages designated as Village Mix, allowing both residential and moderate commercial use within the village. The village of Cordova is currently undergoing a Community Master Plan. Assistant County Planning Officer Miguel Salinas is heading the effort, working with Clive Graham from the firm RK&K. Community planning meetings have been held to gather public input and discussion about the direction of future residential and commercial development in the village. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Cordova Volunteer Fire Department.

In 2017, several residents from Bozman and Neavitt approached the Talbot County Council seeking relief from failing septic systems and diminishing property values in these villages due in part because much-needed improvements couldn't be made to the homes there. Last year, the County Council approved the extension of sewer into the villages of Bozman and Neavitt. Through Resolution 250, sewer service will be provided to the small lots that make up these villages and the homes will be connected to the County's Region II wastewater treatment plan in St. Michaels. County Engineer Ray Clarke has secured grant funding through the Maryland Department of the Environment to assist homeowners with the capital charges and will continue to seek grant/loan opportunities for this project.

The County Council recently listened to a proposal from Dana Newman, Director, Talbot County Free Library and members of its Board of Directors regarding their request to expand the St. Michaels branch of the Library. Mrs. Newman told the Council that the Library was originally built in 1988. The building currently is 7,716 square feet and is proposed to be increased to 11,000 square feet. The proposed expansion, if approved, would include increasing the space of the community meeting room to 125 seats and would create more separation between the Library's young users and adult patrons.

The County had several retirements over the last year. These dedicated and highly professional individuals will be sorely missed. From Human Resources, the County said farewell to Cheril Thomas, who had worked as the Director of Administrative Services for eight years. From the Department of Public Works, the Council said goodbye to both Derick Brummell and Bill Wolinski. Derick a 32-year employee with the County oversaw the County's recycling operations, as well as other duties. Bill was with the County for 14 years, working to address the reduction of nitrogen and phosphorus from

entering the County's waterways. And from the Office of the State's Attorney, the Council wishes Henry Dove farewell. Henry was with the State's Attorney's Office for 30 years and prosecuted hundreds of cases. We thank all of these employees for their service to the County and we wish them all well. The Council is also pleased to welcome Kim Ferullo as she steps in as the new Director of Human Resources.

Talbot County is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau and State agencies to prepare for the important work of Census Day on April 1, 2020. The County's Planning & Zoning Office will be taking the lead on Census outreach efforts. Stay tuned for additional information.

Finally, on October 29th the County Council hosted the 33rd annual Maryland You Are Beautiful awards ceremony which recognizes volunteers who share a great part of their lives to benefit others in our community and who are nominated by their peers for their service. This year the Council recognized nine terrific volunteers who provide a variety of service to the community from volunteering at Brookletts Place – Talbot Senior Center, to assisting with sports programs and serving as classroom helpers and tutors at Talbot County Public Schools, to service at Talbot Hospice and ministry service at senior homes, to mentoring with Talbot Mentors. While all nine nominees are winners in my book and are to be applauded for their service to others, this year's winner is Gary Interdonato who was recognized for his service with St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Congratulations Gary! Also special thanks to Easton High School's Culinary Program who provided delicious refreshments for the ceremony.

As we come upon Thanksgiving, the Council is grateful for the many people who serve on the over 30 boards and committees for Talbot County. We are particularly pleased to welcome James Bell to the Ethics Committee. Anyone interested in serving on any of the County boards and committees should complete the "Request for Appointment" form found on the County's website www.talbotcountymd.gov under the Talbot County Council tab, then the Boards and Committees tab. The Council welcomes residents to participate in our government in this way.

May you and your family be blessed as we enter this special holiday season.

Corey Pack, President
Talbot County Council